

1 TAPED TRANSCRIPT OF CAROL CONAWAY
2 INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY SERGEANT JOHN ALLEN AND
3 CORPORAL WILLIAM "ERIC" EDWARDS
4 CASE AGENT – CORPORAL YURI MELICH
5 CASE NUMBER – 08-74777
6 RECORDED SEPTEMBER 16, 2009
7 JA – SERGEANT JOHN ALLEN
8 EE – CORPORAL WILLIAM "ERIC" EDWARDS
9 CC – MS. CAROL CONAWAY

10 **EE:** 09-16-2009. It's approximately 10:49 a.m. Corporal Eric Edwards, Orange
11 County Sheriff's Office Homicide, in a conference room at John Young and 50,
12 with, can you please state your name ma'am?

13 **CC:** Carol Conaway.

14 **EE:** And Sergeant?

15 **JA:** John Allen.

16 **EE:** Uh, Carol, you've come forward because you've been monitoring the case uh,
17 Casey Anthony case uhm, on television, and also you were an active participant
18 in some of the searches. Is that correct?

19 **CC:** That's correct.

20 **EE:** Okay, and I got your information here. And you stated, and I won't put in the
21 statement; I have notated three phone numbers that you could be reached at?

22 **CC:** Yes.

23 **EE:** And those phone numbers may have some significance in regards to other calls
24 that you made?

25 **CC:** Yes.

1 **EE:** Okay. You stated to me in a pre-interview here, we talked for about fifteen
2 minutes, that you came over twice. Can you tell me approximately the first time
3 you came over to help Texas, Texas Equusearch?

4 **CC:** It was in August some time.

5 **EE:** Of?

6 **CC:** '08.

7 **EE:** Okay. Now you came over with your daughter, is that correct?

8 **CC:** That's correct.

9 **EE:** And her name is?

10 **CC:** Jennifer.

11 **EE:** Same last?

12 **CC:** Correct.

13 **EE:** Alright. Now you had told me that you guys came over because you have
14 horses. Can you tell me a little bit about that trip, and how long it takes you to
15 get over here?

16 **CC:** Uhm, it took us about an hour and fifteen minutes from Deltona.

17 **EE:** Okay. And you responded to where originally?

18 **CC:** Uhm, we....

19 **EE:** If you don't know the address you can just describe what uh...

20 **CC:** It was a, a, uhm, warehouse industrial park...

21 **EE:** Okay.

22 **CC:** ...where they told us to meet everybody at.

23 **EE:** Okay, and you met with, you stated you met with a representative of the Sheriff's
24 Office and the Texas Equusearch people. And you were running a little bit
25 behind you said?

1 **CC:** That's correct.

2 **EE:** And they, in front of you, got on the radio and, and it was determined that you
3 were going to head over to the area of Suburban Drive by the school is my
4 understanding?

5 **CC:** That's correct.

6 **EE:** Okay. Uhm, now, when you first arrived over there in that area, what did you
7 see? What can you recall?

8 **CC:** As we were coming down the road we saw a bunch of searchers.

9 **EE:** Okay.

10 **CC:** Uhm, we didn't know where we were going of course. And as we were going
11 down the road they were on the right hand side of the road. And they had sticks,
12 and they had water bottles, and backpacks. Uhm, when we realized that they
13 were searching there, you know, we just passed them on by and went on down
14 to the end of the road.

15 **EE:** Approximately how many searchers?

16 **CC:** Probably ten.

17 **EE:** Okay. Now where were they? Were they in that wooded area that you can
18 recall, or were they on the roadway? Do you remember specifically where they
19 were?

20 **CC:** They were on the corner, before the woods, where the houses were.

21 **EE:** Okay, so they weren't even...

22 **CC:** (Unintelligible).

23 **EE:** ...they weren't in the wooded area yet? They were standing next to the homes?

24 **CC:** That's correct. They were searching in that area.

25 **EE:** Okay. Now you pulled your horse trailer down there by the school?

1 **CC:** That's correct.

2 **EE:** And you offload your two horses?

3 **CC:** Correct.

4 **EE:** Tell me about that.

5 **CC:** Uhm, we unloaded them. They were already saddled up. Waited for the uhm,
6 deputy sheriff to come back out of the woods at the end of the, where the school
7 was, to get us. And as we were, we have to exercise them out. Uhm, it was a
8 long trip for them. And as we were going up and down the road there uhm, I
9 don't which side it would be on, but it's on, where the woods are. Uhm, I was
10 starting to walk down towards the woods. And my, I had mentioned to my
11 daughter, who was behind me messing with her horse, that "I wonder if they
12 searched in that area." And she said, "N...no, probably not. It's all up under
13 water." And as I got closer you could see the water.

14 **EE:** Uh, how far from the roadway could you see the water?

15 **CC:** Oh, uh...

16 **EE:** If you're walking, exercising the horse out, I mean was the water close to the
17 roadway, or....

18 **CC:** Yes.

19 **EE:** ...farther down in the tree line?

20 **CC:** It was close to, I believe there was a sidewalk there. I'm not really sure because
21 I was in the grass. But as the road comes up out of the woods, it was about a
22 third of the way up towards the roads.

23 **EE:** Okay, you described to me there's a side of the road with a fence, and then a
24 side of the road that you had open access to get down into the woods. So it's the
25 open access side that you're describing?

1 **CC:** Yes.

2 **JA:** That would be the side across the street from the school?

3 **CC:** Yes.

4 **JA:** Okay.

5 **EE:** Uhm, how far down Suburban do you think you had to walk? Did you walk all the
6 way back down towards where the, the searchers that were on foot were?

7 **CC:** No.

8 **EE:** You didn't make it quite that far?

9 **CC:** No sir.

10 **EE:** Okay. About halfway or?

11 **CC:** We walked to the, I, well I walked to the edge of the woods. But I, and as I see
12 all, I saw the water I turned around and went back where Jen was.

13 **EE:** Okay.

14 **CC:** Uhm, I didn't see the searchers on horseback because I was more interested in
15 what Slim was going to do when we got close to the water. Uhm, I knew he'd go
16 in the water, but he'd been in a trailer and...

17 **EE:** Now you, you, you say that they were searching in the, the wooded area on the
18 other side of that fence by the school, not in that area that the people were out on
19 foot, the horse, the horseback? Or did they actually go in that wooded area.

20 **CC:** Say that again please.

21 **EE:** The search that was going on....

22 **JA:** With the horses.

23 **EE:** ...with the horses.

24 **CC:** Okay, yes. That was at the very end of the road.

25 **EE:** Okay, that wasn't, the area that you were e...

1 **EE:** Now you, you, you say that they were searching in the, the wooded area on the
2 other side of that fence by the school, not in that area that the people were out on
3 foot, the horse, the horseback? Or did they actually go in that wooded area.

4 **CC:** Say that again please.

5 **EE:** The search that was going on....

6 **JA:** With the horses.

7 **EE:** ...with the horses.

8 **CC:** Okay, yes. That was at the very end of the road.

9 **EE:** Okay, that wasn't, the area that you were exercising your horses out, where the
10 body eventually was recovered...

11 **CC:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

12 **EE:** ...there was never a search that you were a part of in there on horseback in that
13 water?

14 **CC:** No sir.

15 **EE:** Okay.

16 **JA:** So you guys would have been searching as you drive, if you're driving down
17 Suburban, you're driving east...

18 **CC:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

19 **JA:** ...toward the school...

20 **CC:** Okay.

21 **JA:** ...from Chickasaw. Do you know where I'm talking about?

22 **CC:** Yes.

23 **JA:** You drive, w...where you searched would be past that, or east of the school, past
24 the gate?

25 **CC:** Yes.

1 **JA:** Okay.

2 **CC:** Yes.

3 **EE:** And you describe that water uhm, as a black, murky kind of water.

4 **CC:** Yeah (affirmative), you couldn't see through it.

5 **EE:** That was uh, standing water?

6 **CC:** Yes.

7 **JA:** Well let me uh, interject. Uh, just, just uh, where, where y'all searched east of
8 the school, behind the fence, was that area in there wet too?

9 **CC:** Yes, uh-hum (affirmative). Yes.

10 **JA:** And did, did, well uh, was your recollection, was it fairly wet?

11 **CC:** There was areas that were wet. Uhm, as we started down the trail...

12 **JA:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

13 **CC:** Uhm, we came up to, there was a lot of trash and stuff on both sides...

14 **JA:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

15 **CC:** ...of the trail going in. And as we came up to a bend, it, we were in chest deep
16 water that we had to put the horses through. (Coughs.) Excuse me.

17 **JA:** That's east of the school where you were searching on horseback?

18 **CC:** Oh, I'm so sorry. I don't know my east and west...

19 **JA:** Okay. I'm sorry...

20 **CC:** ...from where I'm at.

21 **JA:** ...past the school? Past the...

22 **CC:** Past the school, correct.

23 **JA:** Alright. So it was also wet back in there as well?

24 **CC:** Yes.

25 **JA:** Okay.

1 **EE:** On that date in August when y'all went to the command post, which I'll, I'll refer to
2 it as that, okay, the first place you went.

3 **CC:** Okay.

4 **EE:** You, you, did you have to show identification or sign sheets...

5 **CC:** Uh...

6 **EE:** ...or did you sign in there?

7 **CC:** Yeah (affirmative), we had to sign sheets. I, I don't remember if we had to show
8 i.d.'s at that time but uh we probably did.

9 **EE:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

10 **CC:** Because we were, they were, everything was in our back pockets.

11 **EE:** Okay. Uhm, you said later that same day you guys came out of that wooded
12 area. You went and searched another place after lunch. Do you remember
13 where that was? No?

14 **CC:** No.

15 **EE:** But it wasn't that, it wasn't in that general vicinity.

16 **CC:** No, it was, we could see planes coming in and landing. It was a open, big, open
17 fields with woods around it, uhm, and a busy road. Uhm, two, maybe it was two
18 lane road.

19 **EE:** So you had to put your horses back in the trailer...

20 **CC:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

21 **EE:** ...and move them to this new location?

22 **CC:** Yes.

23 **EE:** Okay.

24 **CC:** And then we moved from there to another location.

25

1 **EE:** How long do you feel you were in that area when you first arrived there searching
2 onto Suburban down by the school?

3 **CC:** Half an hour maybe.

4 **EE:** Half an hour on your horse?

5 **CC:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

6 **EE:** And there was uh, other horses in the area already. You said Sheriff's Office
7 horses?

8 **CC:** Yes. I believe there were three Sheriff's Department horses, and uhm, in
9 uniforms, and then there were several uhm, volunteers. I would say probably six
10 other volunteers.

11 **EE:** And when you guys are searching in there were there other volunteers on foot
12 searching along with you, or...

13 **CC:** Not in where we were. But as you go down into it, they were searching, I
14 probably want to say on both sides of it. They were, as you, at the end of the, at
15 the end of the road you had to, kind of had to go down this little hill, and they
16 were searching to the right, going off into that area.

17 **EE:** Okay.

18 **CC:** It was six.

19 **EE:** Okay. And you had stated that you had made several calls to the Sheriff's Office,
20 which we're going to research.

21 **CC:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

22 **EE:** Uhm, after that August date you said approximately December of last year, after
23 seeing all that controversy on the news regarding when uh, that area was
24 searched, you had tried to reach out and say hey, I know that this area was
25 under water. Is that correct?

1 **CC:** That's correct.

2 **EE:** Okay. Let me, I'll look, and I will look into that. Can you think of anything else?

3 **JA:** No. Uhm, well is this the only you ever, uh, you, you went up there to sign up as

4 an Equusearch...

5 **CC:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

6 **JA:**volunteer. Is that, that's the only search you've been involved with with

7 Equusearch?

8 **CC:** No, I believe it was November. I think it was on November the 7th....

9 **JA:** Okay.

10 **CC:** ...was the other one.

11 **JA:** Alright.

12 **CC:** Jenn's telling me it was my birthday, so.

13 **JA:** Okay.

14 **CC:** (Coughs.)

15 **JA:** Alright.

16 **EE:** So you, you helped search for her twice?

17 **CC:** Yes.

18 **JA:** Okay.

19 **EE:** And that was November 7th you believe?

20 **CC:** Right. That's what Jenn says, yes. We'd have to go back through our bank

21 things....

22 **JA:** Right.

23 **CC:** ...and find out.

24 **EE:** What area did you search on that, on that second uh, attempt? Uhm, you didn't

25 go, did you go back to that same area?

1 **CC:** Uhm, uhm....

2 **EE:** By the school or?

3 **CC:** No.

4 **EE:** No?

5 **JA:** So somewhere, other location? Okay. Alright. Did you ever, have you ever
6 helped Equusearch with anything other than the Caylee search?

7 **CC:** No.

8 **JA:** Okay. Okay. Okay, I think that's....

9 **EE:** Raise your right hand for me? Do you swear that everything you say today is
10 true?

11 **CC:** Yes.

12 **EE:** And it's freely given?

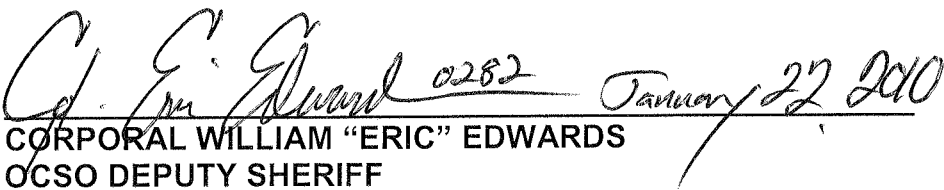
13 **CC:** Yes.

14 **EE:** And it's approximately 1059. Thank you ma'am.

15 **CC:** Thank you.

16 **End of recorded statement.**

17 **This transcript has been reviewed for accuracy.**

18
19  0282 January 22 2010
20 **CORPORAL WILLIAM "ERIC" EDWARDS**
21 **OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF**

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